

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A canister vacuum cleaner comprising:
a body defining a suction inlet and an exhaust outlet;
a suction source contained in said body and located fluidically between said suction inlet and said exhaust outlet;
a dirt cup releasably connected to said body, said dirt cup defining a dirt separation chamber and an airstream outlet that releasably mates with said suction inlet when said dirt cup is connected to said body, said dirt separation chamber conformed to impart a rotational flow pattern to an airstream passing therethrough whereby contaminants entrained in said airstream are separated therefrom and deposited in said dirt cup; and,
a filter located in said dirt separation chamber of said dirt cup in covering relation with said airstream outlet.
2. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 1, wherein a first portion of said dirt cup defines said airstream outlet and a second portion of said dirt cup defines an open entrance to said dirt separation chamber, said body comprising a cover that is selectively located in covering relation with said open entrance of said dirt cup when said dirt cup is connected to said body.
3. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 2, wherein said cover is pivotably connected to a main portion of said body and pivots on an arc between a first position spaced away from said open entrance of said dirt cup and a second position in covering relation with said open entrance of said dirt cup.
4. (Previously Presented) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 2, wherein an associated hose communicates with said dirt separation chamber of said dirt cup through said movable cover.

5. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a hose fitting connected to and extending through said cover, said hose fitting comprising an inlet conduit projecting outwardly away from said cover external to said body and an outlet conduit located adjacent said open entrance of said dirt cup when said dirt cup is connected to said housing and said cover is placed in covering relation with said open entrance of said dirt cup.

6. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 5, wherein said outlet conduit of said hose fitting is directed obliquely toward an interior wall of said dirt cup when said cover is placed in covering relation with said open entrance of said dirt cup whereby an airstream entering said dirt separation chamber from said outlet conduit of said hose fitting is directed obliquely at said interior wall of said dirt cup.

7. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 1, wherein said filter is releasably connected to said dirt cup.

8. (Previously Presented) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 1, wherein an annular airflow space is defined between said filter and an interior wall of said dirt cup that defines said dirt separation chamber, and wherein said canister vacuum cleaner further comprises:

a plurality of wheels connected to said body and adapted to support said body movably on an associated support surface in an operative position wherein said filter is inclined relative to said associated support surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 8, further comprising at least one additional wheel connected to said dirt cup, said plurality of wheels and said additional wheel movably supporting said body and dirt cup connected to said body on an associated support surface.

10. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 9, wherein said filter extends axially in said dirt cup along a longitudinal axis that is parallel to

the associated support surface when said body and dirt cup are movably supported on the associated support surface.

11. (Original) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 8, wherein said dirt cup includes an end wall that defines said airstream outlet, said filter projecting outwardly from said end wall and unsupported by said dirt cup between said end wall and an outer end of said filter that is spaced from said end wall.

12. (Previously Presented) The canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 10, further comprising an exhaust filter located in said body in covering relation with said exhaust outlet.

13-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) A bagless canister vacuum cleaner comprising:
a main housing defining an airflow inlet, an airflow outlet and a receiver region adapted to receive a dirt cup;
a suction source located in said housing and operational to establish and maintain an airstream that flows from said airflow inlet to said airflow outlet;
a dirt cup releasably coupled to said receiver region of said main housing, said dirt cup comprising:

(i) an interior wall defining a dirt separation chamber conformed to impart a rotational flow path to a dirty airstream passing therethrough whereby contaminants are separated from the dirty airstream and deposited in said dirt cup;

(ii) an open first end in communication with said dirt separation chamber; and,

iii) an airstream outlet from said dirt separation chamber, said dirt cup releasably coupled to said main housing with said airstream outlet of said dirt cup mated with said airflow inlet of said main housing;

a filter assembly releasably connected to said dirt cup and located in said dirt separation chamber, said filter assembly comprising a filter element located in covering relation with said airstream outlet of said dirt cup; and,

a cover connected to said housing, said cover movable between an open position, where said cover is disengaged from said dirt cup, and a closed, operative position where said cover is placed in covering relation with and blocks said open first end of said dirt cup, said cover, when located in said closed, operative position, preventing separation of said dirt cup from said main housing.

31. (Original) The bagless canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 30, further comprising a handle connected to said cover to facilitate manual movement of said cover between said open and closed positions.

32. (Original) The bagless canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 30, further comprising a hose and a hose fitting interconnecting said hose to said cover, said hose fitting comprising a first portion projecting outwardly away from said cover and a second portion projecting into said dirt separation chamber adjacent said open first end of said dirt cup, said second portion directed obliquely toward said interior wall of said dirt cup defining said dirt separation chamber.

33. (Original) The bagless canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 30, further comprising: a plurality of wheels for movably supporting said main housing and said dirt cup on a support surface when said dirt cup is coupled to said receiver region of said main housing, at least one of said plurality of wheels connected to said dirt cup.

34. (Original) The bagless canister vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 33, wherein said dirt cup comprises a handle and wherein said at least one of said plurality of wheels connected to said dirt cup is connected to said handle.

35-38 (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended) A bagless vacuum cleaner comprising:
a body; and,

a dirt cup releasably connected to and selectively separable from said body, said dirt cup comprising a handle and pour spout;

a lid connected to said body and adapted for selectively covering an open end of said dirt cup; and,

a handle connected to said lid.

40. (Original) The bagless vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 39, wherein said handle and pour spout are located opposite each other.

41. (Original) The bagless vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 39, further comprising a second handle, said second handle connected to said body.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) The bagless vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 39, further comprising:

a strap connected to said body, said strap adapted for securing said bagless vacuum cleaner to a body of a user.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ bagless vacuum cleaner ~~as set forth in claim 39~~, further comprising:

a body;

a dirt cup releasably connected to and selectively separable from said body, said dirt cup comprising a handle and pour spout;

at least one wheel connected to said body; and,

at least one wheel connected to said dirt cup.